common effluent treatment plants and maximum use of treated sewage for horticulture/agriculture in the absence of dilution capacity in the river.

Import, Production and dumping of plastics

3760. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the volume of plastic/polythene imported/produced and dumped in India every year giving figures of the last three years;

(b) the impact of dumping of plastic and polythene on ecology, human beings and animals; and

(c) why Government are not banning/restricting the use of plastic/polythene
to very few items required for storage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) As per the information furnished by the Indian Center for plastics in the Environment, the production and imports of plastics including poly ethylene in India are as follows:

Year	Production	Imports
	(In 1 000 Tonnes)	
2000-2001	3442	221
2001-2002	3917	302
2002-2003	4072	438

(b) and (c) Indiscriminate littering of plastics and environmentally unsound recycling practices may cause adverse impacts on ecology, human beings and animals. Ministry of Environment and Forests has prohibited the use of recycled plastic bags for storing, carrying, dispensing, or packaging of foodstuffs under the 'Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules 1999'. These rules also specify that the minimum thickness of carry bags made of virgin plastic and/or recycled plastics shall not be less than 20 microns. To further strengthen the regulations and to promote recycling/reuse, Ministry has also issued draft amendments to ban carry bags below 8"^{x} 12" in size.